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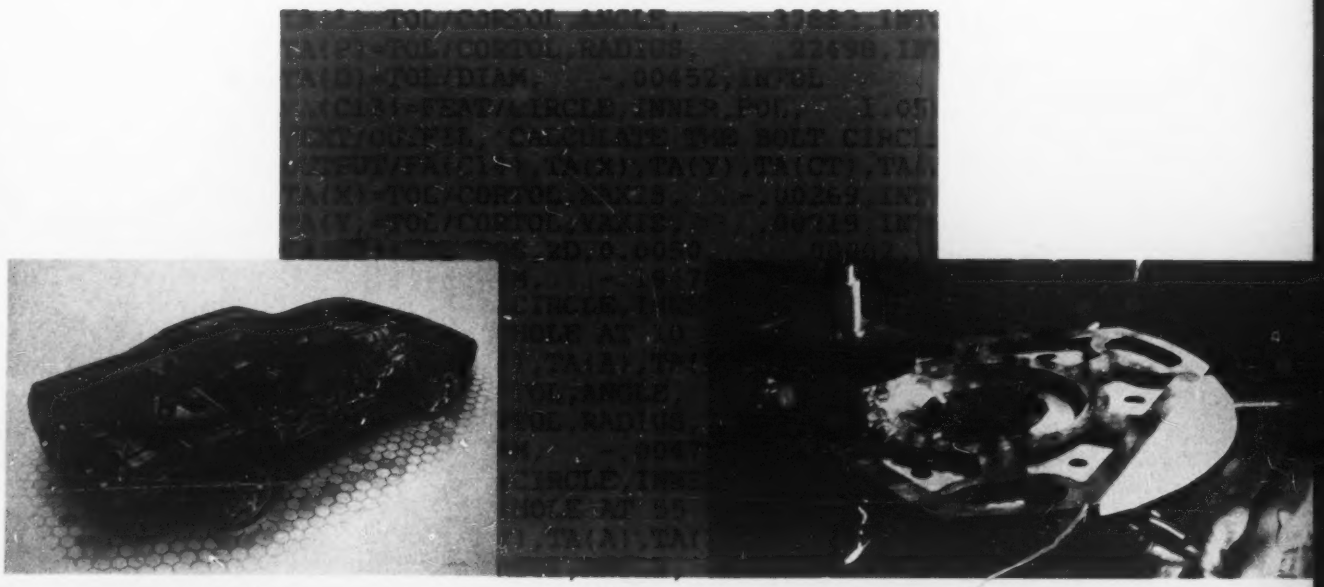

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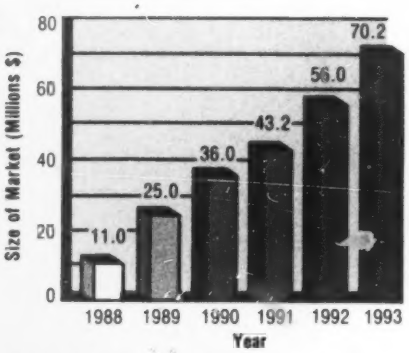
MAP: Stirring or Stalling?

The fate of the market for manufacturing automation protocol (MAP)-based products may hinge on acceptance of and demand for the manufacturing message specification (MMS), according to a recent report by the Yankee Group (Boston, MA) called *Industrial Networks: Standards Update*.

According to Keith Belton, director-Manufacturing Automation Planning Service, the survey indicates that less than one percent of all U.S. industrial sites have installed a MAP network. "Though far more users now require 'support of MAP' from suppliers, the large-scale move to standards is still three years away."

The Yankee Group forecasts the 1989 market for MAP-based offerings and related services to be just $25 million. That figure will grow by more than 30 percent to $36 million during 1990, but, says Belton, it will be a quiet growth.

To get more information on *Industrial Networks: Standards Update* and the Manufacturing Automation Planning Service, contact Corey Green at 617-367-1000.—*BJF*



Closely tied to the development of industrial local-area networks (ILANs) is the central, or "backbone," network, which runs throughout manufacturing facilities. Yankee Group data indicates that today, proprietary network protocols (Ethernet, SNA, and "Other") total 79.3 percent—nearly all of the installed based of plant-wide networks—and it expects that Ethernet will also increase in utilization to more than 30 percent by 1992. Much of this growth will come from large users. Plant-level networks are more likely to be pushed down from corporate sites as they are to be implemented from the bottom up. Ethernet's likely contenders? SNA and TOP, in its final, specified version.

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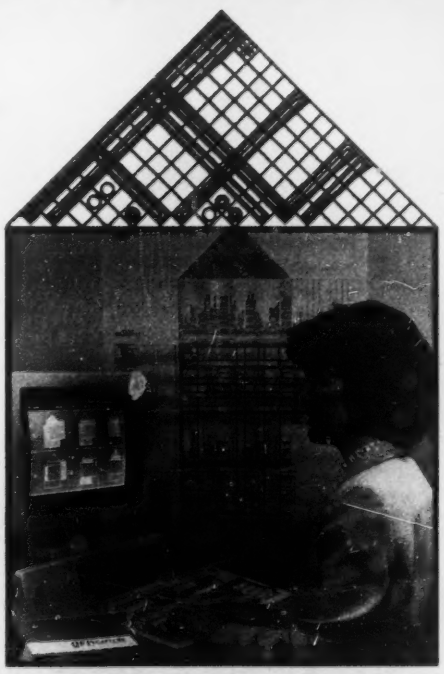

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